

What we claim is:

- 5
1. A method for renewing a prescription for a pharmaceutical via an electronic network, comprising the steps of:
- generating a prescription renewal request for the renewal of a prior prescription;
  - transmitting said prescription renewal request to a prescriber;
  - receiving a renewal prescription, in response to said prescription renewal request, from said prescriber; and
  - notifying a dispenser to fill said renewal prescription.
- 10
2. The method according to claim 1, wherein said generating step further comprises creating a prescription renewal request before the expiration of said prior prescription.
- 15
3. The method according to claim 1, wherein said generating step further comprises creating said prescription renewal request from the following: a patient identifier, a pharmaceutical identifier, a dispenser identifier, a prescription identifier, a prescriber identifier, a dosage, number of refills, and a strength.
- 20
4. The method according to claim 1, wherein said method further comprises the step, prior to said receiving step, of providing information useful to said prescriber for reviewing said electronic prescription renewal request.
- 25
5. The method according to claim 4, wherein said information is selected from the following: warnings for any drug-drug reactions, formulary listings, patient medication history, and low cost therapeutic alternatives.
- 30
6. The method according to claim 1, wherein said receiving step further comprises the step of acquiring a renewal prescription, wherein said renewal prescription has components that have been changed from said prior prescription.
7. The method according to claim 6, wherein said components are selected from the following: a patient identifier, a pharmaceutical identifier, a dispenser identifier, a prescription identifier, a prescriber identifier, a dosage, number of refills, and a strength.

8. The method according to claim 1, wherein said receiving step further comprises the step of acquiring an appeal from said prescriber for a patient of said prior prescription to contact said prescriber.

9. The method according to claim 8, wherein said acquiring step further comprises notifying said dispenser to inform said patient to contact said prescriber.

10. The method according to claim 8, wherein said acquiring step further comprises notifying said patient to contact said prescriber.

11. The method according to claim 1, wherein said generating, transmitting, receiving, and notifying steps occur for a plurality of prescription renewal requests and renewal prescriptions.

12. The method according to claim 1, wherein said method further comprises the steps of ascertaining a status of said prescription renewal request.

13. The method according to claim 12, wherein said ascertaining step comprises:  
determining how many prescription renewal requests were transmitted to said prescriber; and  
establishing how many prescription renewal requests said prescriber has addressed.

14. The method according to claim 12, wherein said ascertaining step further comprises the step of sending said status to said prescriber.

15. The method according to claim 1, further comprising the step of deleting said electronic prescription renewal request after a set time.

16. The method according to claim 1, further comprising the step of deleting said electronic renewal prescription after a set time.

17. The method according to claim 1, further comprising the steps, prior to said receiving step, of:

accepting said prescription renewal request from a renewal server, using a portable computing device;

displaying said prescription renewal request, via said portable computing device, to said prescriber;

showing said prescriber information, via said portable computing device, useful for reviewing said prescription renewal request; and

communicating said renewal request to said renewal server using said portable computing device.

18. The method according to claim 1, further comprising the initial steps of:

receiving said prior prescription;

determining whether a prescribed pharmaceutical from said prior prescription is on formulary;

dispensing said prescribed pharmaceutical based on said determining step.

19. The method according to claim 18, further comprising the steps, prior to said dispensing step, of:

ascertaining whether said prescribed pharmaceutical is a chronic medication; and

storing a result of said ascertaining step for later transmission to said prescriber.

20. The method according to claim 1, further comprising the initial step of determining whether refills are available for said prior prescription.

21. The method according to claim 1, wherein said method further comprises the initial steps of:

obtaining a patient record, said record containing at least a patient identifier, a pharmaceutical identifier for a currently prescribed pharmaceutical, a number of authorized refills of the currently prescribed pharmaceutical, and a date of the last filling of the currently prescribed pharmaceutical; and

setting a renewal date before a last refill has been consumed by a patient if said number of authorized refills is greater or equal to a predetermined number.

22. A method for renewing a prescription for a pharmaceutical via an electronic network, comprising the steps of:

downloading a prescription renewal request for the renewal of a prior prescription from a renewal server;

displaying said prescription renewal request to a prescriber;

showing said prescriber information useful for reviewing said prescription renewal request;

generating a renewal request; and

communicating said renewal request to said renewal server.

23. The method according to claim 22, wherein said showing step further comprises the step of presenting said prescriber with information selected from the following: warnings for any drug-drug reactions, formulary listings, patient medication history, and low cost therapeutic alternatives.

24. A computer readable memory storing executable instructions for execution by a computer system such that said computer system functions in a specified manner, said instructions comprising:

instructions for generating a prescription renewal request for the renewal of a prior prescription;

instructions for transmitting said prescription renewal request to a prescriber;

instructions for receiving a renewal prescription, in response to said prescription renewal request, from said prescriber; and

instructions for notifying a dispenser to fill said renewal prescription.

25. A computer readable memory according to claim 24, further comprising:

instructions for downloading a prescription renewal request for the renewal of a prior prescription from a renewal server;

instructions for displaying said prescription renewal request to a prescriber;

instructions for showing said prescriber information useful for reviewing said prescription renewal request;

instructions for generating a renewal request; and

instructions for communicating said renewal request to said renewal server.